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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 879

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Senator Andy Womack
for his meritorious service to the people of
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, capable and dedicated public servants are indeed rare and, thus, it is especially distressing when a public servant of the highest caliber announces his intention to quit this body; and

WHEREAS, this is the unenviable position in which we find ourselves, as we face the imminent departure of Senator Andy Womack from the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, evincing the greatest wisdom, expertise and integrity during his three terms and twelve years in the Senate, Andy Womack has astutely served the good people of the 16th Senatorial District, which is comprised of Rutherford and Bedford counties and which also formerly included Cannon and Marshall counties; and

WHEREAS, Senator Womack has truly distinguished himself as a devoted friend and advocate for education during his illustrious tenure on Capitol Hill, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and all people involved in the legislative process for his unswerving commitment to this worthy cause; and

WHEREAS, he has served as Chair of the Senate Education committee for the past six years, and in this important position, he has devoted countless hours to guiding the course of

public education in this state to ensure the highest quality of instruction for all Tennessee students; and

WHEREAS, prior to his exemplary tenure as Chair, Senator Womack served as Vice Chair of the Senate Education Committee; he is also a valuable member of the Senate State and Local Government Committee and the Senate Transportation Committee, and formerly served on the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee and the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee; and

WHEREAS, his tireless support of, and dedication to, quality education has earned him numerous awards and accolades from educational organizations that represent many varied interests, including his receipt of the Friend of Education Award from the Murfreesboro Education Association, the William Baird Legislative Leadership Award from Tennessee's Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Tennessee Technology Center - Shelbyville in 2000; the Legislative Award from the Tennessee School Board Association in 1993 and 1997; the Philander P. Claxton Award from the American Association of University Professors in 1994; an award from the Tennessee Association for Adult and Continuing Education in 1994; the Award for Support of Education from the MTSU College of Education in 1992; a Service Award from the Tennessee Technology Centers in 1995; and the Friend of Education Award from the Bedford County Board of Education in 1990-91; and recognition as an Advocate for K-12 Schools by the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Senator Womack has proven himself to be a genuinely compassionate legislator of many interests and great ability, and he has utilized his talents to the great benefit of Tennesseans from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his singular service in the General Assembly has been recognized by numerous people and organizations; he was honored as 1997 Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Development District Association; 1994 Legislator of the Year by the County Officials Association of Tennessee; and 1991 Legislator of the Year by the Community Mental

Retardation Association; he was specially recognized by the Tennessee State Employees Association in 1994; and

WHEREAS, a 1970 graduate of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Andy Womack has been a loyal and diligent servant of his alma mater for the past 30 years; he has previously served with distinction as president and a member of the National Board of Directors of the MTSU Foundation, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the MTSU Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, this exemplary public servant is also a valuable member of the Blue Raider Athletic Association and was instrumental in establishing the MTSU Chair of Insurance as a member of its Board of Directors; he was appropriately honored with the MTSU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993 in recognition of his outstanding service to the University; and

WHEREAS, an insurance agent by profession, Andy Womack has served his clients with the same probity and proficiency with which he has served his constituents; he has been a member of the Legion of Honor, the Bronze Table and Silver Scroll, and is a Millionaire Life Producer; he has also astutely served as the President of the Middle Tennessee Association of Life Underwriters; and

WHEREAS, Senator Womack interrupted his college education to proudly serve his country in the Vietnam War as a member of the U.S. Army; he received the Army Commendation Medal for his patriotic service in Vietnam, and was honorably discharged in 1968 with the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, he is the son of Dr. Bob Womack, a distinguished education professor of long standing at MTSU, and Elizabeth Womack; and

WHEREAS, the Womack family moved to Murfreesboro when Andy was very young and, through the years, have established themselves as conscientious and contributing members of the community, as evidenced by Senator Womack's many contributions to MTSU and his years of adept service as a State Senator; and

WHEREAS, Senator Womack has also worked assiduously as a civic and community leader in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County; he has formerly served the Murfreesboro Optimist Club as president; the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce as Vice President of Retail Development and as a member of its Board of Directors; and the Boys' Club of Rutherford County as President; he presently serves as Chairman of the Board of First Step Outreach Ministries; and

WHEREAS, his career and many accomplishments aside, he remains most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife of over 30 years, Cheryle, who is affectionately known as Cherry; their daughter, Dana; their son and daughter-in-law, David and Cheryl; and their first grandchild, Molly Elizabeth, who was born on February 18, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Senator Womack and his family are faithful members of the First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro, where he has previously served in numerous capacities, including Deacon, Sunday school teacher, and as a member of the Choir; and

WHEREAS, for 12 years, Andy Womack has served his constituents and all Tennesseans with uncommon integrity, fortitude, and skill; and

WHEREAS, a man of principle, Senator Womack has never wavered in the face of controversy or bowed down to the pressures of the popular opinion of the moment, but has, instead, always remained true to his convictions by voting his conscience on all legislation; and

WHEREAS, this type of courage is all too rare in elected officials; Andy Womack's ability and willingness to cut through rhetoric to reach the heart of the matter and then speak truthfully about any given issue will be sorely missed in these chambers; and

WHEREAS, Senator Andy Womack has rendered judicious and steadfast service to the state of Tennessee during his estimable tenure in the General Assembly, and it is with deep regret and sadness that we, his colleagues, bid him a fond farewell; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend our most trusted and valued colleague,

Senator Andy Womack, for his meritorious public service as a member of this General Assembly; salute his courage and his commitment to his convictions as an elected official and public-spirited citizen; and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.